

# *Inquiries into the* **Cultural Basis of the Modern World:**

## **A Study in Food**

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|--------|---|
| WHAT:  | HIST1260                                  |
| WHEN:  | WINTER 2019<br>T/TH 8:30                  |
| WHERE: | ISBISTER RM 235<br>UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA |
| WHO:   | DR JENNIFER DUECK                         |

### *What it's all about*

Come ready to put your senses and minds to work. Food is a direct window onto the world's changing cultural dynamics, from the 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial revolution through the age of European and American imperialisms, into globalization and the late 20<sup>th</sup> century technological revolution. As the world has changed, the nature of food preparation, consumption and symbolism has similarly changed. In this course, students will expand their understanding of food in history, in society, and in our own lives.

In addition to building our knowledge about the history of food and cuisine, this course will also help students develop their university "tool kit", a foundation set of skills that all students need during their university years. These skills include note-taking from lectures and printed sources, identifying relevant books and articles for a given research topic, writing well-organized essays, and engaging in group discussion in class and online.

***Further information, including week-by-week reading lists will be available on UMLearn.***

### *Writing in this course: The "W" Requirement*

One reason many of you may be in this course is that it meets the famous (or infamous) "W" requirement mandated by the University Senate. Which means you must successfully complete both assigned essays in order to pass the course.

That said, passing this course is actually not, by a long shot, the most important reason you need to learn to write well. Knowing how to express yourself in writing is a skill that will serve you in all aspects of your life. In the age of electronic media, you need an especially sophisticated understanding of how to use written language. This is essential so that you are effective in reaching the audience you want. It is also essential so that you don't embarrass yourself or irritate people. The audience in question might be someone you hope to date, someone you hope to work for, or, eventually, someone you hope to hire. The format might be a text message, a tweet, a formal letter or a press release. In each case, you will need some mastery of written communication.

***You must pass both essays in order to pass this course.***

## What we'll learn...

In this first-year course, we will systematically build your university “tool kit”. Not only will you learn something about the significance of food and its history, you should emerge from this course more confident in your ability to learn about anything.

When you complete this course, you should be able to:

- ❖ Explain the cultural implications of food production and consumption, with reference to social, political and environmental history.
- ❖ Illustrate the implications of food production and consumption in society with examples from the 19th and 20th century histories of people who have lived and immigrated to North America.
- ❖ Evaluate the significance of food history for individuals with reference to a wider social issue or question.
- ❖ Take accurate and useable notes from lectures and printed material.
- ❖ Identify different types of scholarly and non-scholarly material relevant to a given research topic.
- ❖ Write an historically-focused analytical research essay.

*Taking notes? Following lectures? Doing research? Use this course to get your university “toolkit” in order.*

## ...and how

Assessment in this course is based on four different categories of work, described here. You can consult the grade breakdown in the table below.

**Thought Portfolio:** Worth 15% of your mark, this one may not be self-explanatory. Throughout the term you will build a portfolio of short writing exercises. Details of these exercises will be assigned

*We use UMLearn extensively in this course. Weekly assignments and readings are posted there. Assignments are submitted there. It is essential to consult it regularly.*

weekly through UMLearn. The formats and specific objectives will vary. Sometimes you will submit an assignment through UMLearn’s Dropbox Tool, sometimes you will contribute to a UMLearn online discussion, sometimes you will write or illustrate something in class. But the underlying objective is always to enable reflection about your individual learning and to build your specific set of study skills.

**Essay writing:** The two essays combined are worth half your grade. And there’s a reason why. Essay-writing is a complex process for which you need to deploy a number of different skills, among them writing, analyzing, and researching. This is why we will break down the essay-writing process into a series of steps or building-blocks. Class discussion, workshops, and handouts to follow with details about essay-writing for this course.

**Final Exam:** The three-hour exam will tax not only your minds but also your hand muscles. It will be based on material covered in the lectures and readings, and you will be expected to demonstrate your understanding of the history of food and cuisine with specific reference to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century histories of the foods and peoples we have studied.

## Grades and assignments, concisely

|                               |      |  |
|-------------------------------|------|--|
| Thought Portfolio             | 15%  | Includes online discussion forum contributions, in-class exercises, and other short writing assignments. Details assigned on UMLearn |
| <u>Peer Reviews</u>           |      |  |
| Peer Review 1                 | 2.5% | 5 February   |
| Peer Review 2                 | 2.5% | 26 March   |
| <u>Essay I (1,000 words)</u>  |      |  |
| Draft                         | 2%   | 29 January   |
| Final                         | 18%  | 14 February  |
| <u>Essay II (2,000 words)</u> |      |  |
| Annotated Bibliography        | 2%   | 28 February  |
| Draft                         | 2%   | 14 March   |
| Final                         | 26%  | 4 April  |
| Final Exam (3 hours)          | 30%  | April exam period  |

Even though I advise you to focus on learning rather than grades, you may nevertheless wish to be aware of the following rubric:

|              |    |          |             |
|--------------|----|----------|-------------|
| 90 and above | A+ | 65-69    | C+          |
| 80-89        | A  | 60-64    | C           |
| 75-79        | B+ | 50-59    | D           |
| 70-74        | B  | Below 50 | F (failure) |

### **Please note:**

- ❖ If you wish to appeal a grade given for term work you must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.
- ❖ Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.
- ❖ You will receive graded work well in advance of the Voluntary Withdrawal Date of 20 March 2019.

## The books

We will be using the following two books, as well as other materials posted on UMLearn or available through the University of Manitoba libraries website.

- ❖ Michael Pollan, *Cooked* (Penguin Press, 2013)
- ❖ Harvey Levenstein, *Paradox of Plenty* (University of California Press, 2003)

***Other readings will be available occasionally on UMLearn.***

## Technology in the classroom

- ❖ You may bring laptops, tablets and phones to class for course-related use during group activities and in-class writing assignments. You are generally not permitted to use laptops, tablets or phones for note-taking during lectures. I am open to conversations about this, so please see me individually if you have a compelling reason to use personal technology during lectures.
- ❖ You are not permitted to make any kind of audio or video recording, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part, during any part of this course.
- ❖ Phones must be set to silent.

## Managing your time and your deadlines

This is a challenge for people well beyond their studies. So, if you can hone your time management skills while still a student, you'll never regret it. For this course, it's also something you'll need to succeed. There is a regular writing and reading load for this course. If you are not on top of the readings and assignments from week to week, it will be hard to catch up. This course won't always

*The UMLearn Dropbox Tool and Online discussions will be set to accept submissions for a 7-day period. After that, no further submissions will be allowed.*

be your priority, but you will need to carve out blocks of time at some point every week. If you anticipate difficulty with a deadline, please see me as quickly as possible. Barring exceptional circumstances, Final Essay submissions will not be accepted more than a week late. Late submissions may be penalized up to 2% per day, or at my discretion if you discuss with me in advance.

## Communicating with me

**In person:** I welcome all individual conversations with students. Please come to see me at some point in the term, even you haven't got a specific reason. The fact that St John's is built like a rabbit warren and my office is hard to find is a challenge to relish. My regular office hours are Wednesday 1:30-2:30 and Friday 11.40-12.40. If those times don't work for you, email me and we can arrange another time.

*If you are having difficulty with the course, you might be reluctant to drop by; know that you, in particular, I would like to see.*

**By email:** This is undoubtedly the best way to reach me for quick questions or to set up appointments. If you enjoy legalese, by all means read the University's official policy on "Electronic Communication with Students"

([http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Electronic Communication with Students Policy - 2014\\_06\\_05.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Electronic%20Communication%20with%20Students%20Policy%20-%202014%2006%2005.pdf))

*You must check your UMNNet email regularly. I will assume that you are.*

*You must use your UMNNet email address; it is the only one I am allowed to use to contact you.*

In addition to the policy, I would, equally importantly, advise you to be aware that professional email-writing is a skill worth developing. Beginning your email with “yo prof”, or no greeting at all, will make a different impression than “Hello Dr Dueck” or “Dear Jennifer”. Similarly, the body of your email can be conversational and informal, even funny, yet it should remain firmly in a professional register.

## Regarding plagiarism and copyright

This point is simple and serious. Be honest. If you use someone else’s ideas, acknowledge them. Be forewarned that the consequences are severe if you do not.

Lest there was any doubt, the University’s regulations re: plagiarism, cheating and impersonation may be found in the section on “Academic Integrity” of the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar, and Catalog and the Faculty of Arts regulation at:

[http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student\\_resources/student\\_responsibilities\\_integrity.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html)

### The salient details

- ❖ The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course.
- ❖ For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.
- ❖ The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.
- ❖ The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty.
- ❖ For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

**On a related note:** Respect copyright. We will use copyrighted content in this course and we must all make sure that we’re using it legally and according to University guidelines. Copyrighted works, including those created by me, are for private study and research, and must not be distributed in any format without permission. Do not upload copyrighted works to UMLearn or to

any website unless an exception to the Copyright Act applies or written permission has been confirmed. For more information, see the University's Copyright Office website at <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/> or contact [um\\_copyright@umanitoba.ca](mailto:um_copyright@umanitoba.ca).

### *And resources beyond...*

There are **writing tutors** available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/> The ALC page also has resources to help you with **study skills, organization**, as well as assistance for students using **English as an Additional Language (EAL)**. The History department will also make a writing tutor available **exclusively to History students**.

Other issues, including **accessibility services**, workshops, and tips about **academic integrity** are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage ([http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student\\_advocacy/](http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/)).

All of the above services can also be accessed through this link:

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility/student-resources.html>

**History students** can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, Cody Fullerton, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history>